

The instant application claims priority based on two Japanese Patent Applications: Japanese Patent Application. No. P11-179290, filed June 25, 1999, and Japanese Patent Application. No. 2000-005116, filed January 14, 2000. As can be seen, beginning at page 10, paragraph [0027] of the certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 11-179290, the

first application discloses forming a thin film, where the starting material used to form a single layer is fullerene. This first application was filed before the filing date of the Yamada *et al.* patent. Therefore, as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 119, the first application forms the basis for removing the Yamada *et al.* patent as a reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 12-17 and 19-24, as being unpatentable over a combination of Yamada *et al.* in view of Banks should be withdrawn.

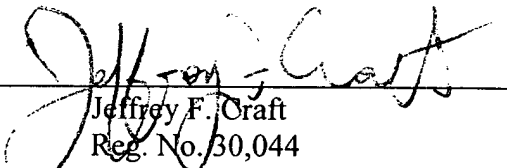
CONCLUSION

In light of the certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 11-179290 and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, so that a prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathleen Gaines